

International Weather and Crop Summary

August 20 - 26, 2000

International Weather and Crop Highlights and Summaries
provided by USDA/WAOB

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: A heat wave in southeastern Europe further accelerated crop development and reduced moisture supplies for winter grain planting.

FSU-WESTERN: Hot, dry weather stressed filling summer crops in eastern Ukraine and parts of southern Russia, while frequent showers slowed small grain harvesting and fieldwork for planting the 2001 winter grain crop in northern Russia.

FSU-NEW LANDS: Light to moderate showers caused only brief harvest delays in Kazakstan and favored immature spring grains in Russia.

AUSTRALIA: Locally heavy rain soaked vegetative winter grains across the southeast.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: A tropical storm brought heavy rainfall to central Vietnam and eastern Thailand.

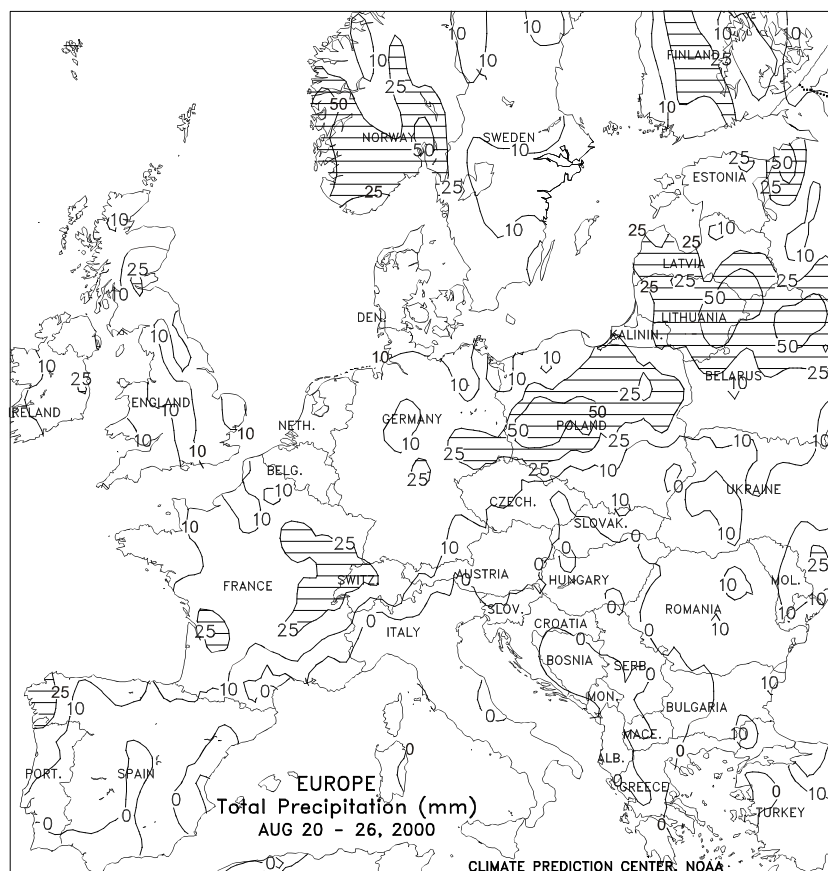
SOUTH ASIA: Heavy rain and localized flooding returned to summer crop areas of southern India.

EASTERN ASIA: In Manchuria, showers brought drought relief to summer crops, while continued dry weather stressed summer crops in the North China Plain.

SOUTH AMERICA: In central Argentina, rain boosted soil moisture for vegetative winter wheat.

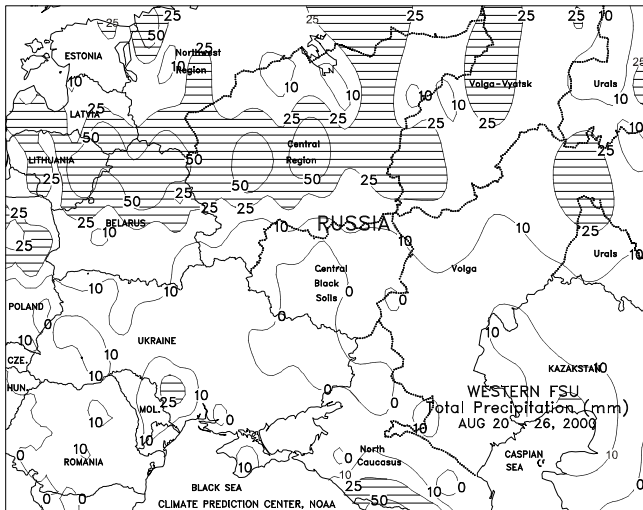
CANADA: Mostly dry, warmer-than-normal weather over the Prairies favored maturing spring grains and oilseeds.

MEXICO: Scattered showers provided some moisture for corn across the main corn belt, but more is needed.

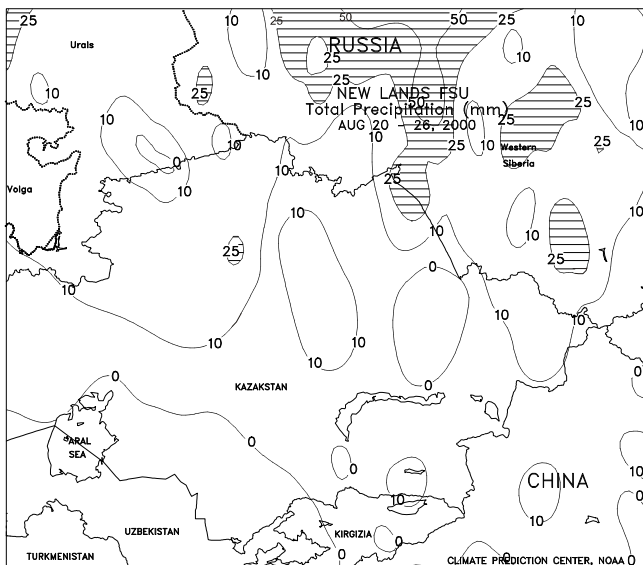


EUROPE

In northwestern Europe, scattered showers (7-48 mm) caused brief winter grain harvest delays in England and the Benelux countries, and likely slowed sunflower harvesting in France. Dry weather during midweek, however, allowed harvesting to progress and helped maturing summer crops. Farther east, rain (9-53 mm) early in the week delayed winter grain harvesting in Germany, Scandinavia, Poland, and the western Czech Republic, while dry weather the remainder of the week helped fieldwork. In northwestern Spain and northern Portugal, scattered showers (4-37 mm) benefited filling corn, while dry weather elsewhere helped sunflower harvesting and corn maturation. Similarly, dry weather throughout Italy helped maturing corn and sunflowers, but maintained irrigation requirements for filling rice and soybeans. Unfavorably dry weather persisted in southeastern Europe, further intensifying prolonged drought. Although the dryness favored summer crop harvesting, soaking rains are needed soon to improve soil moisture for winter grain planting. In addition to the dryness in southeastern Europe, hot weather plagued the region through midweek. Daily maximum temperatures ranged from 35 to 40 degrees C in Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, and northern Greece, further accelerating crop development. Temperatures throughout much of Europe averaged near to above normal (2 to 7 degrees C above normal), helping crop development in the north, but increasing evaporative losses in the south. Western Spain, Portugal, and Scandinavia were unusually cool, however, with temperatures averaging 2 to 5 degrees C below normal in these areas.

**FSU-WESTERN**

In Ukraine, hot, dry weather continued to aid rapid harvest activities. Reports from Ukraine as of August 23 indicated that grain was about 80 percent harvested. The hot, dry weather conditions increased stress on filling corn and sunflowers, especially in southeastern areas where unfavorable dryness has persisted since early July. Early-week hot weather was observed at most locations in Ukraine, with maximum temperatures ranging from 35 to 38 degrees C. By week's end, however, cooler weather was accompanied by spotty showers, alleviating heat stress on crops. In Russia, hot, dry weather in southern areas (North Caucasus, lower Volga Valley, and the southern portion of the Central Black Soils Region) favored harvest activities, but stressed filling summer crops (corn, sunflowers, and sugar beets). Farther north, frequent showers (10-50 mm or more) maintained wet conditions from Central Region eastward through Volga Vyatsk and the upper Volga Valley, slowing harvest activities and fieldwork for planting the 2001 winter grain crop. The optimum time for planting winter grains in northern Russia is late August. Reports from Russia as of August 21 indicated that spring grains and pulses, excluding corn, were about 43 percent harvested. Elsewhere, light to moderate showers (10-74 mm) in Belarus interrupted grain harvesting. Weekly temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees C above normal in Ukraine and southern Russia, hastening maturity in summer crops. Weekly temperatures in the Baltics and northern Russia averaged near normal.

**FSU-NEWLANDS**

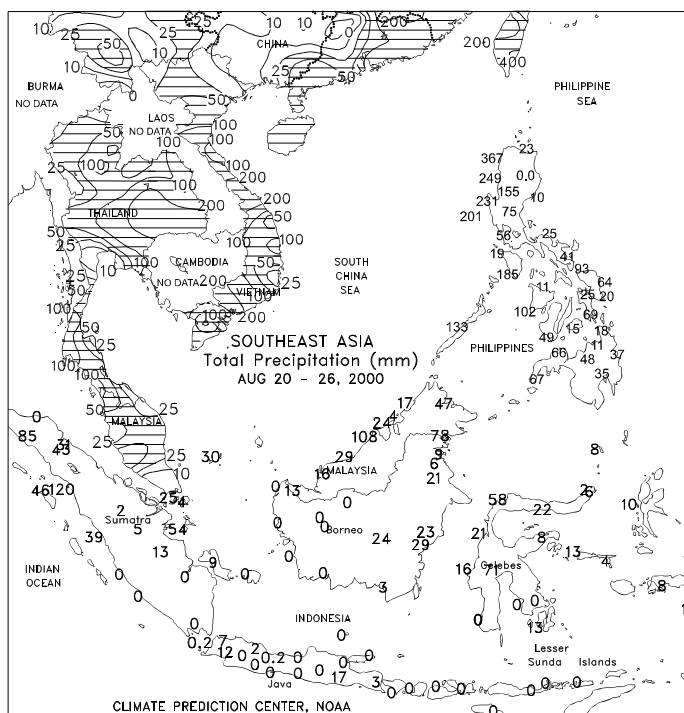
Light showers (10-25 mm) spread across primary grain-producing areas in north-central Kazakhstan, favoring immature crops and causing only brief delays in early harvest activities. Reports as of August 23 indicated that grain in Kazakhstan was about 16 percent harvested. In Russia, light to moderate showers (10-27 mm or more) spread from the Urals eastward into Eastern Siberia for the third consecutive week, favoring immature spring grains. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal in Russia and Kazakhstan. In cotton-producing areas of Central Asia, hot, dry weather favored boll maturation and early harvest activities. Reports from Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan indicated that the cotton harvest was starting earlier than usual, due to early planting followed by unusually hot weather that persisted during most of the growing season.

EASTERN ASIA

In Manchuria, showers (10-50 mm) continued to bring drought relief to filling corn and soybeans. In the North China Plain, continued dry weather (less than 10 mm) in Hebei, northern Shandong, and Henan stressed filling summer crops. Heavier rain of 15 to 40 mm fell across southern Shandong and northern Anhui and Jiangsu. In both regions, temperatures averaged 1 to 2 degrees C above normal, with the highest temperatures ranging from 26 to 30 degrees C in Manchuria and 32 to 35 degrees C in the North China Plain. Super Typhoon Bilis struck southeastern Taiwan on August 22, with sustained winds of 140 knots (161 mph). In Taiwan, the storm produced torrential rain (100-320 mm) and caused local rice damage. Later on August 22, Bilis then struck mainland China (Fujian) with sustained winds of 130 knots (150 mph). The storm spread heavy showers (50-200 mm) across Fujian, eastern Guangdong, Jiangxi, and Zhejiang, possibly causing some flooding and local damage to late double-crop rice. Elsewhere, moderate showers (20-70 mm) maintained moisture supplies for summer crops in the Sichuan Basin and Guizhou. The remnants of Bilis moved over the Yellow Sea and, on August 25 and 26, helped to produce widespread heavy showers (100-300 mm) and flooding across South Korea, possibly causing some damage to maturing rice. Earlier in the week, moderate showers (25-50 mm) boosted moisture supplies in North Korea. In most of Japan, mostly dry weather aided maturing rice, while showers (25-75 mm) prevailed across the southern Islands and Hokkaido. Temperatures averaged near normal in the Korean Peninsula and 1 to 3 degrees C above normal in Japan.

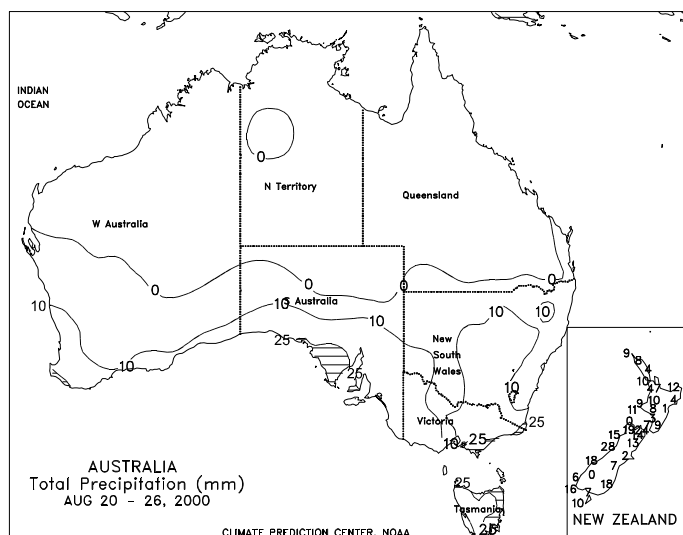
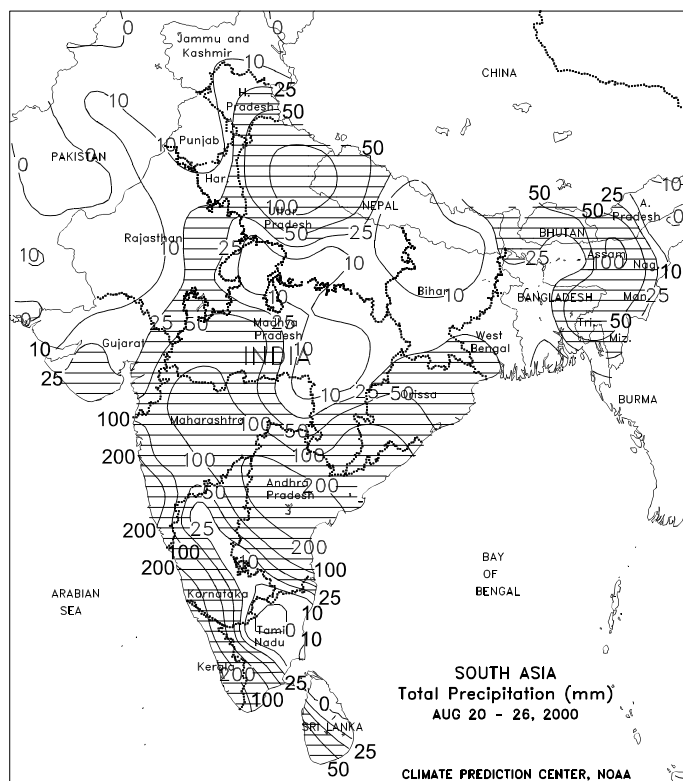
SOUTH ASIA

A shift in the monsoon circulation brought moderate to heavy showers (50-100mm or more) to much of India's southern interior. While the moisture was overall beneficial, a swath of inundating rain (100-300 mm or more) caused local flooding over interior summer crop areas of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, including important cotton and groundnut areas. More moderate rain (10-50 mm or more) benefited soybeans, groundnuts, cotton, and coarse grains in important production areas of central India (western Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Rajasthan). Above-normal temperatures (highs in the mid- to upper-30's degrees C), however, maintained high crop moisture demands in the more arid crop areas bordering the western desert. Pockets of heavy rain (50-100 mm) persisted across northern and eastern India and Bangladesh, but a drier weather pattern dominated the rest of the rice belt, helping to alleviate local flooding. On average, monsoon rains typically last about 3 more weeks in rice areas of north-central India and roughly 6 weeks in the far east.



SOUTHEAST ASIA

Tropical Storm Kaemi made landfall in central Vietnam on August 22. The storm brought heavy rainfall (200-400 mm) and widespread flooding. Elsewhere in Vietnam, monsoon rain (100-200 mm) to the south boosted moisture supplies for 10th month rice, while moderate rainfall (25-75 mm) boosted moisture supplies in the north. The remnants of the tropical storm moved into eastern and central Thailand, bringing heavy rainfall (200-400 mm) and widespread flooding. Elsewhere, in Thailand, rain (50-100 mm) boosted soil moisture for main-season rice. Scattered showers (25-50 mm) maintained adequate moisture supplies throughout the Philippines, while monsoon rain (150-350 mm) caused localized flooding in western Luzon, Philippines. Scattered showers (10-50 mm) maintained moisture supplies for oil palm in peninsular Malaysia. The weather was seasonably dry across Java, Indonesia, where moisture supplies are adequate for irrigated second-crop rice.

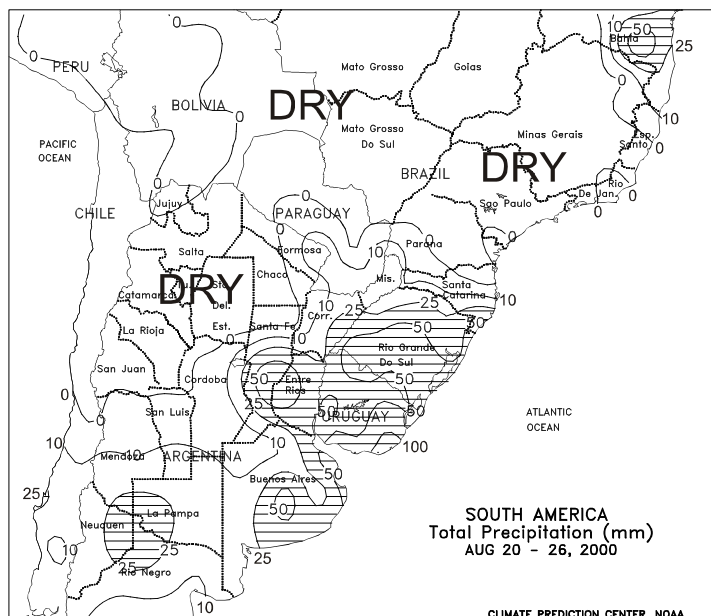


AUSTRALIA

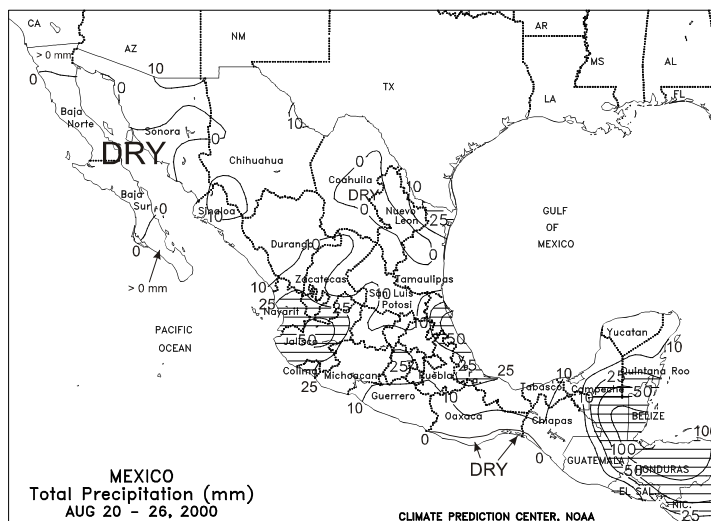
A slow-moving storm system brought soaking rains (10-25 mm or more) to winter crop areas of the southeast (South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales). While staying above freezing, temperatures averaged about 1 degree C below normal, slowing vegetative development. Elsewhere in the east, dry, seasonably cool weather persisted in the winter grain areas of southeastern Queensland, necessitating additional rainfall as crops advance through reproduction. Dryness in coastal sugarcane plantations was favorable, however, for harvesting. In Western Australia, scattered, generally light showers (10 mm or less in most areas) kept topsoils moist, but frost and freezing temperatures restricted early winter grain and oilseed development. In New Zealand, drier weather (rainfall totaling 15 mm or less) brought some relief to agricultural districts hit hard by last week's storm.

SOUTH AMERICA

In central Argentina, widespread rain (10-50 mm) boosted soil moisture for vegetative winter wheat in Buenos Aires and La Pampa. In southern Sante Fe, scattered rain (10-70 mm) also favored winter wheat. Temperatures averaged near normal through central Argentina, with local patchy frost reported in Buenos Aires. In northern Argentina, temperatures averaged 3 to 6 degrees above normal, with the highest temperatures ranging from 30 to 37 degrees C. According to the Argentine Agriculture Secretariat as of August 25, winter wheat planting was nearing completion. Sunflower planting was underway in northern Argentina. In southern Brazil, rain (25-60 mm) was confined to Rio Grande do Sul, benefiting wheat in the east. Elsewhere in southern Brazil, mostly dry weather reduced soil moisture for vegetative to reproductive winter wheat. Temperatures averaged 3 to 6 degrees C above normal, increasing crop water use.

**MEXICO**

Scattered showers (5-60 mm) fell across the main corn belt, providing some moisture for corn. The heaviest rain fell in the states of Jalisco and Mexico (30-60 mm). Rain (2-40 mm) increased moisture supplies across the Rio Grande Valley, but mostly dry weather prevailed elsewhere in the northeast and northern Mexico. Dry weather also prevailed across the Yucatan Peninsula and the southern states of Guerrero and Oaxaca. Temperatures averaged near normal across the main corn belt.

**CANADA**

Mostly dry, warmer-than-normal weather dominated the Prairies, aiding late development and drydown of spring grains and oilseeds. Highs rebounded from last week, reaching the lower to middle 30's degrees C in southern Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Harvesting was reportedly underway throughout the Prairies, with the greatest progress in southern growing areas, although a few locations experienced disruptions due to moderate rainfall (amounts exceeding 10 mm). According to provincial reports dated August 28, harvesting was nearly 20 percent complete in Saskatchewan and ranged from 20 to 80 percent complete in Manitoba. Most Prairie crop areas receive their first autumn freeze in the first 10 days of September. In eastern Canada, mild, showery weather maintained unfavorably wet growing conditions for reproductive to filling summer crops. Rainfall totaled 10 to 25 mm or more across Ontario and Quebec, with a few spots recording more than 50 mm. Late planting and a cool summer resulted in highly variable maturity levels across the region, and there is some concern for potential damage from an early autumn frost. This is especially true in Quebec and Ontario's northern growing areas, which normally receive the first autumn freeze toward the end of September.

